

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 25-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pedoeem, U.S. Patent No. 5,282,293. Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Pedoeem. Claims 13-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Pedoeem in combination with Gidseg et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,048,233.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to require a door leaf mounted and "fully enclosed within" the door. Pedoeem does not disclose this amended limitation. Pedoeem teaches that the door leaf 103 is connected to the exterior of the door 202 and is concealed by a style strip 203 (column 3, lines 32-35). In fact, Pedoeem teaches that the style strip 203 "effectively conceals the hinge from being viewed from the front of the cabinet" (column 3, lines 33-35). The Pedoeem door leaf 103 is not fully enclosed within the door, as required by claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 distinguishes over the Pedoeem patent so as to be allowable, since Pedoeem fails to meet at least one of the limitations of claim 1.

Claims 2-12 and 32 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Furthermore, dependent claim 3 requires the first pin be fully enclosed within the door. In Pedoeem, the first pin 116 which is mounted on the exterior of the door 202 is only concealed by style strip 203 and is not fully enclosed within the door 202, such that claim 3 further distinguishes over Pedoeem.

Dependent claim 7 requires the door to swing approximately 270° relative to the cabinet. This allows the doors to swing open and reside adjacent the side walls of the cabinet, as seen in Figure 3. The door in Pedoeem is restricted to 180° of swing relative to the cabinet. Pedoeem's

invention is specifically designed for a maximum 180° of opening such that "adjacent cabinet surfaces and doors" are not damaged (column 1, lines 58-62). Thus, Pedoeem teaches away from Applicant's invention.

As the Federal Circuit has explained, it is not obvious to modify a prior art device in a manner inconsistent with the prior art reference. In re Gorden, 733 F.2d 900, 902 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Pedoeem cannot be modified to a swing 270° due to the styling strip 203 and the door 200, as seen in Figure 4. As noted earlier, Pedoeem's invention was specifically designed to sit closely adjacent other cabinets while allowing the door to swing 180° without causing damage to the adjacent cabinets. Therefore, it would not be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Pedoeem's invention to swing 270°, since the adjacent cabinets preclude 270° swing.

Dependent claim 8 requires that at least one of the cabinet leaf and intermediate leaf includes a cam ramp to delay full pivotal movement about the second pin until pivotal movement about the first pin is complete. Therefore, claim 8 distinguishes over Pedoeem. In Pedoeem the pivotal movement of the first pin 116 is delayed until the pivotal movement about the second pin 109 is complete. However, Pedoeem does not teach using a cam ramp to control the pivotal movement of the first and second pins and the order in which they move. Pedoeem teaches only a friction fitting of the pin members and mounting leaf members by controlling diameter differences for the first pivot (column 2, lines 25-29) and for the second pivot (column 2, lines 57-63). Pedoeem uses the pin and knuckles and the amount of gap between the two to control the amount of friction induced by the hinges during the opening and closing movement of the door.

Dependent claim 11 requires that the intermediate leaf have an end within the door. Pedoeem does not teach having the first end of the intermediate leaf within the door, but merely

concealed behind the style strip 203. Furthermore, newly added claim 32 requires that the first end of the intermediate leaf be substantially hidden within the door when the door is in the closed position. Pedoeem does not teach having the first end of the intermediate leaf member 102 being substantially hidden within the door 202 when the door 202 is in the closed position. Thus, claim 11 further distinguishes over Pedoeem so as to be allowable.

Lastly, dependent claim 12 requires that the intermediate leaf 102 have a curved portion which extends through an opening in the door 202. In Pedoeem, the curved portion of the intermediate leaf 102 does not extend through an opening in the door 202, such that claim 12 is allowable.

Independent claim 13 requires that at least one of the pins be substantially hidden within the door. Pedoeem does not teach having pins 109, 116 substantially hidden within the door 202, but rather has the pins 109, 116 located on the exterior of the door 202. The Gidseg patent does not overcome this deficiency of Pedoeem, Thus, claim 12 sets forth unique structure so as to be allowable.

Claims 14-24 depend from claim 13 and should be allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Amended dependent claim 16 requires that the door leaf be mounted and fully enclosed within the door. Pedoeem does not teach or disclose a door leaf mounted and fully enclosed within the door. In Pedoeem, the door leaf 103 is mounted on the exterior of the door 202 and is merely concealed by style strip 203.

Dependent claim 17 requires that the intermediate leaf have a first end inside the door and a second end outside the door. Pedoeem does not teach the intermediate leaf 102 having a first

end inside the door and a second end outside the door. Pedoeem teaches that both ends of the intermediate leaf are located on the outside of the door 202.

Dependent claim 22 requires that the intermediate leaf have a curve portion which extends through an opening in the door. Pedoeem does not disclose an intermediate leaf having a curve portion that extends through the door. Pedoeem teaches that the intermediate piece 102 is connected to the door leaf 103 on the exterior of the door 202.

Dependent claim 23 requires that the intermediate leaf have a curved portion that is substantially a radius centered at the first pivot pin. The intermediate leaf member 102 of Pedoeem does not have a curved portion nor a radius centered at the first pivot pin 116.

Dependent claim 24 requires that the hinges pivot about the pins to allow the door to swing approximately 270° relative to the one wall. Pedoeem does not teach hinges which pivot about the pins allowing the door to swing approximately 270° relative to the one wall. Pedoeem teaches that the door 202 is capable of swinging only 180°.

Independent claim 25 has been amended to require a door leaf mounted and fully enclosed within the door. Pedoeem does not teach a door leaf mounted and fully enclosed within the door. As previously discussed with respect to claim 1, the door leaf 103 in Pedoeem is mounted on the exterior or the outside of the door 202. Accordingly, claim 25 distinguishes over the Pedoeem patent so as to be allowable.

Claims 26-28 depend from claim 25 and should be allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Furthermore, dependent claim 28 requires that the hinge include a cam ramp on at least one of the cabinet leaf and intermediate leaf. Pedoeem does not teach using cam ramps on the cabinet leaf or intermediate leaf. Pedoeem teaches only a friction fitting as previously discussed

to control the deterministic opening sequence during the first pivot (column 2, lines 25-29) and through the second pivot (column 2, lines 57-63).

Lastly, independent claim 29 has been amended to require a door leaf mounted within the door. Pedoeem does not teach a door leaf mounted within the door. As previously noted, Pedoeem teaches only a door leaf 103 mounted to the exterior of the door 202. In addition, claim 29 further requires a torsional resistance between the cabinet leaf and the intermediate leaf be greater than the torsional resistance between the door leaf and the intermediate leaf. Thus, in Applicant's invention, the door leaf opens before the cabinet leaf. In Pedoeem the torsional resistance between the cabinet leaf and the intermediate leaf is less than the torsional resistance between the door leaf and the intermediate leaf, such that the cabinet leaf opens before the door leaf. Thus, Pedoeem hinges operates in the reverse order of Applicant's hinges.

Accordingly claim 29 distinguishes over the Pedoeem patent so as to be allowable.

Claims 30 and 31 depend from claim 29 and should be allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

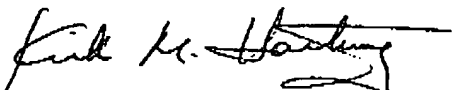
Furthermore, dependent claim 31 requires that the hinge have a cam ramp at least one of the cabinet leaf and the intermediate leaf to increase the torsional resistance therebetween. Pedoeem does not disclose nor teach a cam ramp to increase the torsional resistance between the cabinet leaf and intermediate leaf. Pedoeem only teaches or allows a frictional fitting for the first pivot (column 2, lines 25-29) and the second pivot (column 2, lines 57-63).

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment;
however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any
additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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